

60,130-1108; 01MRA0212

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 and 21-25 are presently pending in the application. New claim 25 has been introduced by this amendment.

Claims 1-2, 4-6, 8-11, 14-17, and 21-24 were rejected under §103 over Kapaan in view of Johnston. Claim 1 has been amended to require that the bearing assembly includes an inner race engaging the shaft portion of the driven shaft. This is not disclosed in Kapaan as the inner race engages a member 6, which in turn, engages the fixed shaft 14'. Accordingly, the references cannot meet the limitations of claim 1 and its depending claims.

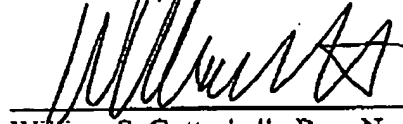
With respect to claim 8, which requires the bearing cage to be constructed from a polymer material, this is nowhere disclosed in any of the references and the Examiner does not give a specific argument with respect to claim 8. Presumably, the Examiner is making the same argument as with respect to claims 5 and 6. The argument made by the Examiner simply states that it would be obvious because it is "a matter of engineering design to choose nylon for its known friction reducing properties." However, this argument does not satisfy a prima facie case of obviousness because it does not provide the requisite motivation. That is, there is no motivation provided in any of the references to modify the base reference of Kapaan to provide a polymer cage. Furthermore, a polymer cage in the application of Kapaan would not work. Specifically, a nylon cage would not be able to support the radial load exerted upon the cage by the wheel. Additionally, the cage does not have a rotating part in engagement with it, so why would one use a polymer cage to reduce friction? For these additional reason, the combination is improper.

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additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS

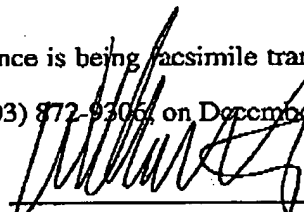


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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States patent and Trademark Office, fax number (703) 872-9306, on December 3, 2003.



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